



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Sulphur man arrested for illegal disposal of hazardous materials into a storm drain**

BATON ROUGE – A Sulphur man was arrested today on charges of willfully or knowingly disposing hazardous waste.

Garry Lee Glass, 59, Director of Maintenance at West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital, allegedly ordered his subordinates to dispose of STERIS 20 Sterilant Concentrate, a hazardous material, by dumping several packages of the product into a storm drain. STERIS 20 is a corrosive material that is used for the chemical sterilization of medical devices.

The Criminal Investigation Division of DEQ received a complaint from DEQ's Emergency Response Division indicating that Glass ordered his subordinates at the hospital to dispose the STERIS 20 into a storm drain. The investigation led to Glass, who was arrested today.

“Proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste disposal is a top priority for DEQ in its mission to protect human health and the environment,” said Jeffrey Nolan, Manager of DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division. “Anyone who has knowledge of any activity involving illegal dumping or disposal of materials is asked to contact DEQ. Notifications can be anonymous. We welcome any assistance from the public as we continue to work diligently to bring these violators to justice.”

The violations cited in the arrest warrant constitute felony charges. If convicted of the crime of knowingly discharging pollutants into waters of the state, Glass faces possible imprisonment for not more than ten years at hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$100,000, or both.

*An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.*